

## THE BUTTERFLIES OF MENDOORAN, N.S.W.

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Mendooran is approximately 290 kilometres (180 miles) north-west of Sydney and 72 kilometres (45 miles) north-east of Dubbo. The area is virtually flat, the elevation being approximately 360 metres (1200 ft). The vegetation consists mainly of scattered eucalypt forest with scrubby undergrowth and cleared open plains. The rainfall is low, averaging only 57 cm (22½ in) per annum. During recent years I have had the opportunity of collecting butterflies in this area, collecting at irregular intervals over a period of 7 years from 1966 to 1973. However, to date, no collecting has been undertaken during June. There appear to be no previous records of butterflies from this area and no doubt further species will be found and months of occurrence for known species extended after further collecting.

## Species

## Months recorded

## HESPERIIDAE

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|---|-------------------|
| 1. <i>Trapezites phigalia phigalia</i> (Hew.)   | Sept., Oct.       |
| 2. <i>Hesperilla donnyisa samos</i> Waterh.     | Apr.              |
| 3. <i>Mesodina halyzia halyzia</i> (Hew.)       | ?                 |
| 4. <i>Taractrocera papyria papyria</i> (Boisd.) | Dec. to Feb., May |
| 5. <i>Ocybadistes walkeri sothis</i> Waterh.    | Sept. to May      |

## PAPILIONIDAE

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|--|-----------------------|
| 6. <i>Graphium sarpadon choredon</i><br>(C. & R. Felder) | Jan., Feb.            |
| 7. <i>Papilio anactus</i> W. S. Macleay                  | Dec. to Feb., Apr.    |
| 8. <i>Papilio aegeus aegeus</i> Don.                     | Jan., Feb., Apr., May |
| 9. <i>Papilio demoleus sthenelus</i> W. S. Macleay       | Sept., Oct., May      |

## PIERIDAE

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 10. <i>Catopsilia pyranthe crokera</i><br>(W. S. Macleay) | Sept., Oct., Feb. to May |
| 11. <i>Eurema hecabe phoebus</i> (Butl.)                  | Apr., May                |
| 12. <i>Eurema smilax</i> (Don.)                           | Sept. to May             |
| 13. <i>Delias argenthona argenthona</i>                   | Apr.                     |
| 14. <i>Delias aganippe</i> (Don.)                         | Sept., Apr., May         |
| 15. <i>Delias nigrina</i> (Fab.)                          | Sept., Oct., Feb.        |
| 16. <i>Anaphaeis java teutonia</i> (Fab.)                 | Sept. to Jan., Apr., May |
| 17. <i>Pieris rapae rapae</i> (Linn.)                     | Aug. to May              |

## NYMPHALIDAE

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|---|--------------------------|
| 18. <i>Danaus plexippus plexippus</i> (Linn.)     | Jan. to Apr.             |
| 19. <i>Danaus chrysippus petila</i> (Stoll)       | Sept., Oct., Jan. to May |
| 20. <i>Danaus hamatus hamatus</i> (W. S. Macleay) | Jan.                     |
| 21. <i>Euploea core corinna</i> (W. S. Macleay)   | Nov. to Jan., Mar., Apr. |
| 22. <i>Hypocysta metirius</i> Butl.               | Jan.                     |

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|--|-----------------------|
| 23. <i>Hypocysta pseudirius</i> Butl.          | Sept., Oct.           |
| 24. <i>Geitoneura acantha acantha</i> (Don.)   | Jan.                  |
| 25. <i>Heteronympha merope merope</i> (Fab.)   | Dec. to Apr.          |
| 26. <i>Polyura pyrrhus sempronius</i> (Fab.)   | Jan., Feb., Apr., May |
| 27. <i>Hypolimnas bolina nerina</i> (Fab.)     | Mar.                  |
| 28. <i>Vanessa kershawi</i> (McCoy)            | Sept. to May          |
| 29. <i>Vanessa itea</i> (Fab.)                 | Sept. to May          |
| 30. <i>Precis villida calybe</i> (Godt.)       | Aug. to May           |
| 31. <i>Acraea andromacha andromacha</i> (Fab.) | Jan., Apr.            |

## LYCAENIDAE

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|--|-------------------------|
| 32. <i>Jalmenus icilius</i> Hew.                           | Dec. to Mar.            |
| 33. <i>Ogyris amaryllis meridionalis</i> B.-Bak.           | Oct.                    |
| 34. <i>Paralucia aurifera</i> (Blanch.)                    | Jan.                    |
| 35. <i>Lucia limbaria</i> Swains.                          | Sept., Oct., Jan., Feb. |
| 36. <i>Nacaduba biocellata biocellata</i> (C. & R. Felder) | July, Jan., Feb., Apr.  |
| 37. <i>Theclinesstes onycha onycha</i> (Hew.)              | Sept., Dec., Feb., May  |
| 38. <i>Lampides boeticus</i> (Linn.)                       | July, Sept., Oct.       |
| 39. <i>Neolucia agricola agricola</i> (Westw.)             | Oct., Feb., May         |
| 40. <i>Neolucia serpentata serpentata</i> (H.-Sch.)        | Sept., Apr., May        |
| 41. <i>Zizina otis labradus</i> (Godt.)                    | Sept. to May            |
| 42. <i>Candalides hyacinthinus hyacinthinus</i> (Semp.)    | Sept., Oct.             |

## Discussion

*Trapezites phigalia phigalia*. Common and Waterhouse (1972) show the Blue Mountains as the western limit for this species. There appear to be no differences between specimens from Sydney and Mendooran. This is an extremely common insect at Mendooran in October.

*Hesperilla donnysa samos*. Only a single female of this species was taken which appears closer to the race *samos* than to *icaria*. Six larvae, almost certainly of *H. donnysa*, were also found, four being collected on 9th December 1972, and two on the 24th April 1973. All larvae were collected on *Gahnia aspera*. Le Souef (1972) records a specimen of *icaria* from the Pilliga Scrub approximately 97 kilometres (60 miles) north-west of Mendooran. Peters (1969) records the race *samos* from Coolah, approximately 65 kilometres (40 miles) east of Mendooran.

*Mesodina halyzia halyzia*. An empty pupal case of this species was found on an undetermined species of *Patersonia* on the 20th April, 1973. This species had previously been recorded as far west as the Blue Mountains in N.S.W. (Common and Waterhouse, 1972).

*Delias argenthona argenthona*. This species had previously been recorded as far west as Gunnedah (Common and Waterhouse, 1972). Only two specimens have been sighted, one of which was taken.

*Delias nigrina*. Only a single female has been taken. This species is mainly coastal as indicated by Common and Waterhouse (1972).

*Jalmenus icilius*. One adult male and five larvae and pupae attended by *Iridomyrmex* ants were taken on *Acacia spectabilis* on 19th February, 1972. The larvae and pupae produced adults from 20th February to 10th March, 1972. On 9th December, 1972 a further nine larvae and pupae were taken, these producing adults from 11th-23rd December, 1972. The pupae collected varied from greenish-yellow through to greyish-green, some being strongly spotted black while some were less so. Pupae have only been observed either in crude shelters amongst a few leaves of the food plant or suspended openly on a stem or leaf. McCubbin (1971) states that larvae usually pupate under loose bark, in curled leaves or debris at the base of the tree and sometimes at the entrance to the nests of the attendant ants. The latter situations do not appear to occur at Mendooran. The early stages have been found on plants ranging in size from approximately 30 to 130 cms (1 to 4 feet).

#### Acknowledgement

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#### References

- Common, I. F. B. and Waterhouse, D. F., 1972. *Butterflies of Australia*. 4to. Angus & Robertson, Sydney. xii, 498 pages, illustr.
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- Peters, J. V., 1969. Notes on the distributions of Australian Hesperioidea and Papilionoidea (Lepidoptera). *Aust. Zool.* 15: 178-184.

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